

Changes in AESDirect

Recently, the AESDirect interface has been modified to give all users greater flexibility in how they view and interact with the system. Particular focus has been directed on meeting the needs of those users with disabilities. The system has been brought into greater compliance with world-wide industry standards of accessibility and usability.

1. The use of ‘standard’ web colors

The most noticeable change to AESDirect is the use of ‘standard’ web colors.



BEFORE



AFTER

Before the recent layout changes, AESDirect was dominated by purple hyperlinks. Now before you click on a hyperlink, it will be standard blue – creating sufficient contrast for those who are visually impaired and/or using screen readers. After clicking the link, it will change to purple, helping you to identify which links you’ve already visited.

2. No more confusing abbreviations!

All SED fields have been rewritten in standard, plain English.

AESDirect VPN e-Response?

E-Mail Response Address

Shipment #

Trans. Ref. #

Origin State

Foreign Trade Zone

Port of Export (L) [Help]

Country of Dest. (L)

Port of Unlading (L)

Departure Date [MM/DD/YY]

Mode of Transport

Carrier SCAC/IATA (L) [Help]

Conveyance Name

Vessel Flag (L)

Inbond Type [Help]

Import Entry Number

Is this shipment a **Routed Transaction?** [Help] Yes No

BEFORE

E-Mail Response Address

• AESDirect VPN e-Response?

◆ **Shipment Reference Number**

■ *Transportation Reference Number*

◆ **Origin State**

■ *Foreign Trade Zone*

◆ **Port of Export (L)** [Help]

◆ **Country of Destination (L)**

■ *Port of Unlading (L)*

◆ **Departure Date** [Format: MM/DD/YY]

◆ **Mode of Transport**

◆ **Carrier SCAC/IATA (L)** [Help]

◆ **Conveyance Name**

• **Vessel Flag (L)**

■ **Inbond Type** [Help]

■ **Import Entry Number**

◆ **Is this shipment a Routed Transaction?** [Help] Yes - This Shipment **IS** a Routed Transaction No - This Shipment is **NOT** a Routed Transaction

AFTER

Previously in AESDirect, field names were abbreviated (Trans. Ref. #, Country of Dest., etc.). Now field names have been completely written out (Transportation Reference Number, Country of Destination, etc.) to avoid any confusion and to facilitate text-to-speech conversion.

3. Color coded fields and added symbols

AESDirect VPN e-Response?

E-Mail Response Address

Shipment #

Trans. Ref. #

BEFORE

■ E-Mail Response Address

● AESDirect VPN e-Response?

◆ Shipment Reference Number

■ Transportation Reference Number

AFTER

Before the recent layout changes in AESDirect, fields were simply color-coded to show which were **Mandatory**/**Conditional**/Optional. Now, all SED fields have an additional color-coded symbol to help those with visual impairments and/or those using screen readers to better recognize **Mandatory**/**Conditional**/Optional fields.

- ◆ A red 'diamond' means **Mandatory**
- A blue 'square' means **Conditional**
- A black 'circle' means **Optional**

4. Retrieve shipments by Internal Transaction Number (ITN)



The screenshot shows a web interface with a navigation bar at the top containing tabs for 'Daily Log', 'View Responses', 'Retrieve Shipments', 'Main Menu', and 'Help'. Below the navigation bar is a 'Select Shipment' section. It features two input fields: 'Enter Shipment Reference Number:' and 'Enter USPPID ID (EIN, SSN, Foreign) Number:'. To the right of the second field is a 'Select From Profiles' button. A 'Retrieve Shipment' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

BEFORE



The screenshot shows the updated web interface. The navigation bar now includes a new tab, 'Retrieve Shipments by ITN', which is circled in red. The 'Select Shipment' section has been simplified to a single input field labeled 'Enter ITN Number:'. The 'Retrieve Shipment' button remains at the bottom right.

AFTER

Before the recent layout changes it was difficult to search for a shipment in AESDirect. A filer would have to enter both the USPPID and Shipment Reference Number before trying to retrieve their shipment. Since retrieving shipments with an ITN will soon be the primary reference used by AES, AESDirect has added the ability to search for shipments based on the ITN.

Now when a filer navigates to the Shipment Reporting Center, they will see a *Retrieve Shipments by ITN* tab alongside the *Daily Log*, *View Responses* and *Retrieve Shipments* tabs. Enter your ITN in the search field and click 'Retrieve Shipments.'

5. Decouple Freight Forwarder and Consignee Profiles from USPPI's

The screenshot shows the 'AESDirect: Consignee Profile Maintenance' page. A Microsoft Internet Explorer error dialog box is displayed in the center, with the following text: 'Cannot Add Consignee Profile At This Time: - Please Enter USPPI ID Number Or Select from USPPI Profiles'. Below the dialog, the page has a search section for consignee profiles with fields for 'USPPI ID Number', 'Search For', and 'Search By' (set to 'Name'). There are 'Search' and 'Add New Consignees' buttons.

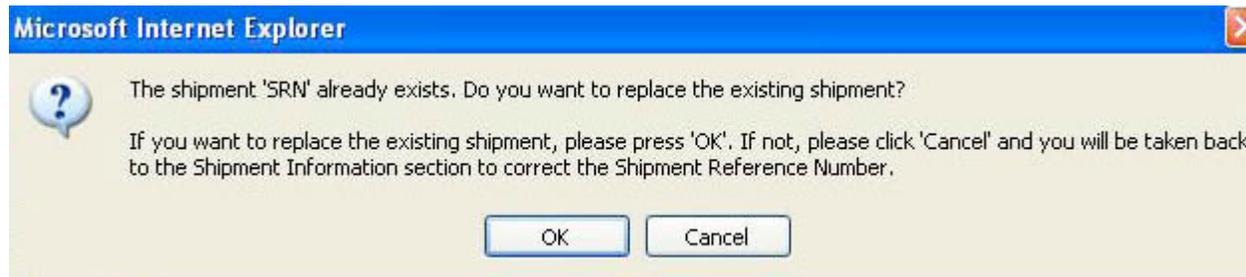
BEFORE

The screenshot shows the 'AESDirect: Consignee Profile Maintenance' page with the 'Add New Consignee for' form open. The form includes sections for 'Company Information' (Company Name), 'Contact Information' (Contact Name, Contact Phone), and 'Company Address' (Address Line 1, Address Line 2, City, State, Postal Code, Country (L)). A 'Save Consignee' button is located at the bottom of the form. Below the form is a search section for consignee profiles with fields for 'Search For' and 'Search By' (set to 'Name'). There are 'Search' and 'Add New Consignees' buttons.

AFTER

AESDirect web profiles were difficult to use. If you wanted to create a Consignee/Freight Forwarder profile it had to be linked to a particular USPPI profile. This is no longer the case. Filers can now Create, Save, Delete and Edit their profiles without depending on a specific USPPI profile.

6. Existing Shipment Warning



New Warning Message

Occasionally, filers use existing Shipment Reference Numbers to file new shipments. This resulted in loss of data. Now, upon submitting an SED, the system will first check the Shipment Reference Number (SRN). If the SRN has an ITN associated with it, the filer will be warned that they are about to replace the shipment and be given the option to either continue or cancel their request.

7. Updated Rejected Status

Before, if a filer made changes on a shipment that was already accepted and those changes were rejected, the CBP status in the Shipment Reporting Center would only show the last accepted message of ACCEPTED/VERIFY and not the current status message.

An "Update Rejected" status has now been added to the Shipment Reporting Center. When an existing shipment with an ITN receives a fatal error, customers will receive this status message.

8. Additional Changes to AESDirect

There are now several different ways of viewing your shipments online. After retrieving them in the Shipment Reporting Center you can either choose to Print, View, or View CBP Responses.

With the use of alternative text (ALT text) as a textual replacement for images, AESDirect becomes more accessible to people who use talking browsers and/or screen readers.

AESDirect now has no fixed width. This new feature was added hoping to eliminate having to scroll side to side to view extended parts of the web page.